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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 8 February 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statement by His Excellency, Mr. Ilija Djukic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement dated 8 February 1993 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the current peace negotiations regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina

I have been authorized by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to make the following statement:

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the plan of the Co-Chairmen as the most complete and realistic framework for establishing just and lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is using all its influence so that the plan will be accepted.

Yugoslavia is aware that the plan is not ideal, since it contains certain shortcomings. These, however, can be ironed out through further negotiations. The establishment of peace is in the best interest of all three peoples - Muslim, Serb, Croat - and that is why we are calling on all sides involved to say "yes" to the plan.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has from the beginning of the work of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia given full support to the peace process and the tireless efforts of the Co-Chairmen.

Despite consistent calls for the use of force by some parties and others concerned, Yugoslavia is convinced that there is no alternative to a political solution reached by all three sides to the tragic civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have informed the President of the Security Council and Mr. Vance and Lord Owen of our continuing support for their plan and our readiness to assist in the reaching of a just and lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 3 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would have the attached texts of two statements made by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in Togo (see annex I) and the situation in Zaire (see annex II) issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity".

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE

ANNEX I

Statement by the President of Senegal in his capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in Togo

The events in Togo are a source of deep concern to the Organization of African Unity, one of whose essential missions is to promote peace and harmony among and within its member countries.

Unless steps are taken, these events threaten to do irreparable harm to the efforts made by the sons of Togo to lead that country to democracy.

Looking beyond Togo, it is the countries of the subregion, which comprise the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), that would suffer in a political climate of instability and fratricidal violence.

It is with full awareness of this situation that we support the initiatives of the current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Nicéphore Soglo, and the entire Community to overcome the crisis and to bring about a resumption of dialogue and cooperation among Togo's political leaders.

In my capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, I should like to appeal to the patriotism and sense of responsibility of all Togolese political leaders so that they may overcome their differences and follow the only valid path for Togo and for all other African countries, which is the way of democratic dialogue.

In so doing, they will create an environment that will allow them to move forward, peacefully, along the route to democracy, in national unity.

For my part, I stand ready to join the efforts of OAU with those of all who display good will, and above all with ECOWAS, in the search for peace and national understanding in Togo.

ANNEX II

Statement by the President of Senegal in his capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in Zaire

In the past few days, the situation in Zaire has noticeably deteriorated, entailing heavy loss of human life and physical destruction.

The initiatives undertaken in recent months by a number of countries and well-intentioned parties with a view to resolving the crisis and restoring an atmosphere of trust that would facilitate a peaceful return to democracy have failed.

We note with regret that the growing troubles in Zaire contain the seeds of a tragedy that would serve neither the interests of that country nor those of Africa.

It is for this reason that I should like, in my capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, to appeal urgently to all Zairian political leaders to open a frank and sincere political dialogue based on respect for the higher interests of the nation and the Zairian people.

The progress our Zairian brothers have made in democratizing their country must be consolidated. The Organization of African Unity is prepared to help by endeavouring to further the concerted efforts begun by the Zairians themselves so that violence may yield to dialogue and cooperation which can only benefit the Zairian people.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 8 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a recent manifestation of anti-Semitism and religious intolerance in a letter from the PLO circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

In a letter dated 7 October 1992 sent to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1993/70), the observer for the PLO in Geneva wrote as follows:

> "It would appear that the Israeli occupation authorities, who are today celebrating the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), are never fully happy even on religious occasions unless their celebrations, as usual, are marked by Palestinian blood and the immolation of innocent defenceless members of the Palestinian people."

The aforementioned statement by the observer for the PLO in Geneva is a slanderous and malicious attack on the Jewish religion and the Jewish people. It recalls the anti-Semitic blood libels and ritual murder charges of the Middle Ages, when Jews were falsely accused of celebrating religious holidays by using the blood of non-Jews for various purposes. Such accusations often served as a prelude to, or pretext for, attacks against Jews, and were designed to provoke fear and hatred of Jews among their non-Jewish neighbours. It is disturbing to see that medieval slurs such as the aforementioned statement continue to be used at the close of the twentieth century. Israel denounces in the strongest possible terms this loathsome form of bigotry and racism.

This incident demonstrates once again the true nature of the PLO.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination".

(Signed) Gad YAACOBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Israel

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THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Letter dated 9 February 1993 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia and Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to bring the following matter to your attention.

When President Boris Yeltsin informed the United Nations by a letter dated 24 December 1991 that "the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations, including the Security Council and all other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, is being continued by the Russian Federation", we hoped that the declared assumption of these prerogatives was also accompanied by the recognition of the responsibilities that accompany such high offices in our organization. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case.

We refer to the recent request by the Russian Federation to distribute, as an official document at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1993/75 of 7 January 1993), a letter dated 28 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights which transmits the text of the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 22 October 1992, "regarding human rights violations in the Estonian Republic". This document is the text which was previously distributed as Press Release No. 46 by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations on 26 October 1992.

We also refer to the draft resolution dated 4 February 1993 entitled, "Situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia", which is currently being circulated by the delegation of the Russian Federation at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva for inclusion under item 20 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities".

Both of these documents circulate and repeat the Russian Federation's undocumented charges of previously alleged "human rights violations and denials of fundamental freedoms" by our two countries. We believe that the timing and character of this continuing campaign of assertions and allegations by the Russian Federation within the various organs of the United Nations seriously erodes and undermines the present ongoing effort within the United Nations system by United Nations and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) fact-finding commissions of human rights experts to determine the validity of the charges. We believe this activity contravenes the spirit, if not the letter, of the effort set forth in the General Assembly's consensus resolution on this matter.

The Governments of Estonia and Latvia invited such fact-finding commissions to report on this matter as expeditiously as possible so that it could be resolved. The United Nations fact-finding commission, which was invited to Latvia on 26 September 1992, has already presented the report of its visit from 27 to 30 October 1992 to you. A summary of it was released by your office on 27 November 1992. The CSCE mission of experts, which was invited to Estonia on 28 September 1992, concluded its visit from 2 to 5 December 1992 and is in the process of issuing its findings. This week, the United Nations team of human rights experts is in Estonia at the invitation of the Government on 27 November 1992 and we await their findings.

Unfortunately, our trust and good faith in the process of United Nations fact-finding, which our Governments initiated and which the rest of the General Assembly concurred in by consensus in General Assembly resolution 47/115, has now been violated by the Russian Federation's apparent unwillingness (despite their own acquiescence) to let the process work according to the terms agreed upon by all Member States in the General Assembly resolution.

We did not object when the Russian Federation requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the recently concluded forty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/47/247). However, we did strenuously disagree with and object to the Russian Federation's characterization of the question by a highly prejudicial and inflammatory description of the agenda item. None the less, we worked within the system with the General Committee and the Russian Federation to place the item under the title, "The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia" for consideration in the Third Committee and the General Assembly. Indeed, we looked forward to discussion and debate on the subject in those, and only those, forums, as agreed upon by all parties concerned.

However, instead of the expected discussion and debate on the issue within the Third Committee or the General Assembly itself, the Russian Federation simply proposed that we join in their draft of a resolution which requested "the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its forty-ninth session all available information on the human rights situation in Estonia and Latvia, including the reports of the United Nations fact-finding missions to these countries".

After intensive negotiations, we were able to reach agreement at the 53rd meeting of the Third Committee, on 2 December 1992. The Chairman's draft resolution (A/C.3/47/L.52) entitled "The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia" was understood by all to be a negotiated settlement of the question. The Third Committee adopted the Chairman's resolution without a vote, recommending to the General Assembly that it be adopted by consensus (see A/47/773). The General Assembly did so on 16 December 1992 (resolution 47/115).

At the heart of this consensus document was the clear understanding and agreement by all parties to the negotiations that the United Nations fact-finding process would be allowed to work to its mandated conclusion without interference and that its results would be reported by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

Unfortunately, the current efforts of the delegation of the Russian Federation to place this matter on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva, less than two months after their agreement to the ongoing process which was stipulated in General Assembly resolution 47/115, raises doubts about the Russian Federation's good will and understanding of the need for "preventive diplomacy" on this question.

We bring this matter of concern to your attention and ask that this letter be circulated to Member States for their consideration and information as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia".

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Estonia to the
United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Latvia to the
United Nations